



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

April 2005

## WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

#### MARCH BRINGS MONTHLY JOB GROWTH TO THE SOUTHEAST WDA

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate in March was 4.9 percent. This was lower than February's final rate of 5.3 percent. The county's current rate is lower than that of last March by seven-tenths of a percentage point. As of March 2005, Walworth's labor force is smaller on an annual basis. The total labor force has over 700 fewer total participants with 300

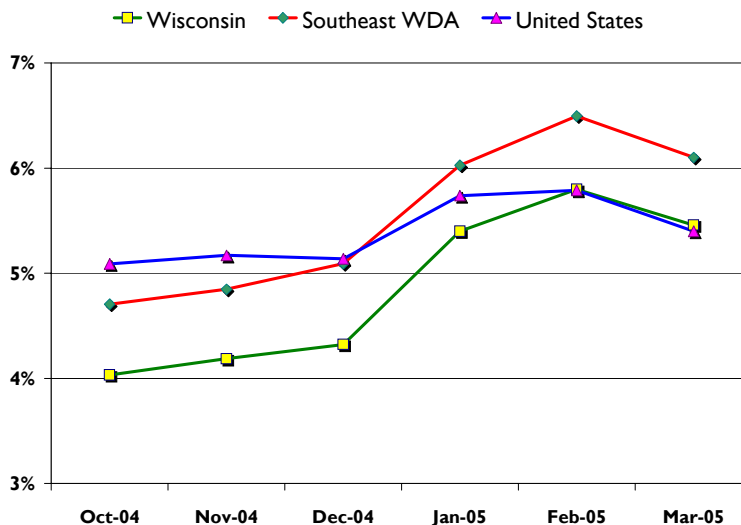
fewer employed and 400 fewer unemployed residents. With the exception of Kenosha County, every southeast region county as well as the Milwaukee metro area and state show a smaller labor force than it did in March 2004.

Walworth's industry employment survey estimated 41,900 total non-farm jobs in March. This repre-

sented an increase of 300 jobs over the month on a net basis. Most of the industry sectors showed little or no employment growth over the month. The construction sector's employment and the combined sectors of information, professional and business, and other services also counted 100 more jobs, each, since February. April is a bellwether month for Walworth County as the warmer months usually bring about a spike in the county's employment and the job-count should continue to increase through the late spring and into the summer months as well.

Walworth's total industry employment from an annual perspective shows growth of 300 total jobs, overall. It was also the only regional county to show overall job growth annually. Education and health services continued to grow gaining 200 more jobs compared to last March. Leisure and hospitality employment showed the single most significant decline, down 100 jobs. Information, professional and business, and other services; and total government employment

#### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: March 2005

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04
Labor force	3,027,584	3,046,140	3,060,197	81,707	81,998	81,876	98,600	99,414	100,368
Employed	2,862,303	2,869,500	2,869,480	76,531	76,561	76,410	92,116	92,436	93,250
Unemployed	165,281	176,640	190,717	5,176	5,437	5,466	6,484	6,978	7,118
% Unemployed	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%	6.3%	6.6%	6.7%	6.6%	7.0%	7.1%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04
Labor force	54,941	55,278	55,667	235,248	236,690	237,911	147,745,000	147,649,000	146,525,000
Employed	52,247	52,321	52,536	220,894	221,318	222,196	139,759,000	139,100,000	137,691,000
Unemployed	2,694	2,957	3,131	14,354	15,372	15,715	7,986,000	8,549,000	8,834,000
% Unemployed	4.9%	5.3%	5.6%	6.1%	6.5%	6.6%	5.4%	5.8%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - March 2005

<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
	Change since		March 2004	Change since		March 2004	Change since		March 2004	Change since		March 2004	Change since		March 2004
	March 2005	Feb. 2005		March 2005	Feb. 2005		March 2005	Feb. 2005		March 2005	Feb. 2005		March 2005	Feb. 2005	
All Industries	2,776.1	15.8	31.8	55.2	0.3	-0.2	78.2	0.2	-0.3	41.9	0.3	0.3	175.3	0.8	-0.2
Construction/Natural Resources	118.4	2.0	4.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.0	7.4	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	500.9	2.5	6.4	9.7	0.0	-0.6	18.9	0.1	-0.2	9.2	0.0	0.1	37.8	0.1	-0.7
Total Trade	422.6	0.5	2.1	8.7	0.0	0.2	12.5	0.0	-0.6	5.5	0.0	0.0	26.6	0.0	-0.4
Retail Trade	308.3	0.0	0.2	xx	xx	xx	9.1	0.1	-0.6	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	114.3	0.5	1.9	xx	xx	xx	3.4	-0.1	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	106.0	0.5	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	157.3	0.4	0.6	1.7	0.0	0.1	2.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.1
Education and Health Services	383.9	0.6	11.9	8.6	0.1	-0.1	10.4	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.2	23.4	0.1	0.1
Leisure and Hospitality	235.9	3.2	3.3	6.6	-0.1	0.3	6.3	0.1	-0.1	6.3	0.0	-0.1	19.2	0.0	0.1
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	427.9	4.7	0.3	6.9	0.1	0.2	11.7	0.2	0.4	4.9	0.1	0.1	23.6	0.4	0.7
Information	51.0	0.7	1.1	xx	xx	xx	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	243.2	3.3	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	6.4	0.1	0.4	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	133.7	0.7	-0.7	xx	xx	xx	4.7	0.1	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	423.2	1.4	1.2	9.0	0.1	-0.4	10.2	-0.2	0.1	7.7	0.0	0.1	26.9	0.0	-0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

are each higher by 100 jobs compared to last March. Manufacturing employment gained 100 jobs, annually, and Walworth is the only regional county to show an increase in this sectors' employment.

The unemployment rate in **Kenosha County** in March was 6.3 percent decreasing by three-tenths of a percentage point, monthly. The county's current labor force shows over 120 more employed residents, almost 300 fewer unemployed and its unemployment rate is four-tenths of a percentage point lower compared to March 2005.

The estimated number of jobs in Kenosha County via the nonfarm wage and salary survey totaled 55,200 jobs in March. The March total was an improvement of 300 more jobs compared to February's final total. Most industry sectors were unchanged over the month with only slight changes measured in education and health services; information, professional and business, and other services; and total government adding in the neighborhood of 100 jobs, each. The only sector to show a monthly employment decline was leisure and hospitality, down 100 jobs. Manufacturing employment was unchanged,

monthly.

Annually, Kenosha County has 200 fewer jobs, overall, than it had in March 2004. This net loss was centered in two sectors showing significant, annual decreases in employment: manufacturing, -600 jobs and total government, -400 jobs. Education and health services was the only other sector to show a lower employment level than in March 2004, down 100 jobs. The largest employment increase was in leisure and hospitality employment (+300 jobs). Total trade, financial activities, and information, professional and business, and other services also showed decent employment gains over the year.

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate in March was 6.6 percent. This is lower over the month and year by four-tenths and five-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. The county's labor force from an annual perspective declined by over 1,700 participants. Compared to March 2004, the county has over 1,100 fewer employed and over 600 fewer unemployed residents.

The March tally of Racine County's industry employment stood at 78,200 jobs in March representing a monthly increase of

200 jobs. Manufacturing employment marked its first monthly gain since November 2004 with 100 more jobs. Gains of 100 jobs each were measured in professional and business services; other services; leisure and hospitality; and retail trade.

The county shows a net loss of 300 jobs compared to March 2004. Retail trade shows the most significant job decline, (-600 jobs). Manufacturing has 200 fewer jobs. Offsetting these job losses were annual gains in professional and business services (+400 jobs), and gains of 100 jobs each in the construction sector and in government employment.

Direct questions and comments to:  
**Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist**

201 East Washington Avenue  
Room A400

Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Phone: 608.266.7034

e-mail: [eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us)

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